

Julie Marešová, Semantic and Pragmatic Aspects of the Prosodic Component of the Message in Simultaneous Interpreting, Institute of Translation Studies, Faculty of Arts and Philosophy, Charles University, Prague, 2009

The thesis focuses on the prosodic component of the message in SI from the point of view of the speech listener, the interpreter and the interpretation listener.

First we described the general function of prosody and its role in SI. We mentioned Gile's Effort model which is closely related to the prosody of source speech. We also considered the interpretation quality assessment from the point of view of the final client.

The empirical part is focused on the way the prosodic character of the source speech influences the interpreter's work and whether the same influence can be seen in the client's assessment of the interpretation.

Using computer analysis (computer programme PRAAT) and retrospective questionnaires we have found out that the interpreters are completely aware of the source speech prosody. If the prosody is unnatural or inadequate it raises the demands on concentration and understanding and makes interpretation more difficult.

We did not confirm the hypothesis that source speech prosody is reflected during SI in the same way. There was a large diversity in the assessments by the interpretation listeners, probably based on different personal preferences. However, the positive influence of professional experience on the final quality of the interpretation was confirmed.